"HEY! YOU! YES...YOU!
YOU KNOW JAPANESE, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
HOW ABOUT JOINING US AS A TRANSLATOR?
YOU'LL GET TO SEE ALL THE LATEST RELEASES,
NOT TO MENTION HELP SPREAD THE SMEX.
IT'S A SWEET DEAL, NE?"

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NEAR AND FAR

Neneko Narazaki

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近くて遠い
near and far
Yuu-kun's Love

EVERY MORNING, AT SEVEN FORTY-FIVE SHARP...
HE'LL COME TO MY HOUSE TO PICK ME UP
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN MAKE ME TASTE BITTERNESS.

YUU-SAMA.
KOUICHIROU-SAMA'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
THANK YOU, OSHIZU.
YOUR KIMONO LOOKS GREAT TODAY.
It suits you very much
AH THANK YOU SO MUCH ♡
I'M LEAVING.
HEY!
WE'RE LATE!
JUMP

YUU-SAMA, KOUICHI-ROU-SAMA, PLEASE BE SAFE.
LET'S GO.
.....
THERE'S STILL TIME.
ALMOST ALL THE STUDENTS ARE FROM RICH FAMILIES LIKE THE SECOND GENERATION OF POLITICIANS OR THE RICH YOUNG LADIES.
IT'S AN INTEGRATED DIRECT ENTRY SYSTEM FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO COLLEGE.
A LITTLE FAR FROM THE DOWNTOWN AREA, KAIOU HIGH SCHOOL IS LOCATED AT THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
HE CAME IN FIRST FOR THE MIDTERM EXAMS.
Amaz ing
HE REALLY STANDS OUT.
VERY OUT-STANDING
AH, KAGAMI-KUN LOOKS COOL TODAY TOO. ♡
AS THE SON OF THE KAGAMI GROUP, IT'S REALLY INCRED-IBLE TO BE SO SMART. ♡

I REALLY WANT TO GET NEAR HIM ♡
SHINO-NOME-KUN
PLEASE USE IT DURING YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES. ♡
MINE TOO. ♡
KOUICHI-ROU'S REALLY POPULAR.
He has someone he likes already?
HE SELDOM TALKS.
What's so good about him?
SHI-NO.
NA-TSU-ME.
YOU WENT TO PICK KAGAMI-KUN BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL RIGHT?
BOTH OF YOU ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
ARE YOU CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS?

LEND ME YOUR CLASSICAL NOTEBOOK. I MIGHT GET CALLED LATER.
WHY DID HE ASK HIM?
ANNOYED
HE COULD HAVE TALKED TO ME!
WHY WOULDN'T YOU USE YOUR OWN?
KOUICHI-ROU'S NOTES ARE VERY NEAT.
You refused to lend us yours
IT'S FINE.
I can lend it to you.
THANK YOU!
WHY DO YOU RELY ON HIM SO MUCH...
I CAN TEACH YOU.
AH, THAT'S TOO TROUBLE-SOME.
STARE

WHAT IS IT?
.....
NOTHING.
ALL RIGHT.
Hmm.
STARING AT ME AS IF HE HAS GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, BUT SAYING "NOTHING" WHEN I ASK HIM.
YUU.
YOUR FACE'S RED.
I'm a bit bothered
EH?

!!
PATS
EH, YOU'RE NOT RUNNING A FEVER...
YOU GET FEVERS VERY EASILY SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG...
I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL!
I'm always healthy
AND YOU'RE UNAWARE OF IT...
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID!
WHAT...
ACK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

17-years-old is still a kid.
DAMN, HE'S ANNOYING ME WITH HIS EVERY MOVE.
Eh, a fight?
Nothing!
WHY AM I ALWAYS SO BOTHERED BY HIM?
No-no, I'm the cool Kagami-kun
I'M GETTING FLUSTERED BECAUSE OF HIM
OUR COMPETITION STARTED WHEN WE WERE YOUN

HE'S FROM THE BRANCH FAMILY
WORRIED THAT I MIGHT GET KIDNAPPED. I COULDN'T GO OUT WHEN I WAS YOUNG. HE BECAME MY ONLY FRIEND.
HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH SINCE HE WAS YOUNG
I'm done, Kouichirou
So fast?
I WAS VERY UPBEAT AND HARDWORKING.
THUS I FARED BETTER THAN OTHERS IN MANY WAYS.
THAT WAS WHY I BECAME UNPREPARED.
YUU, YOU'RE AMAZING.
OF COURSE, I WAS BETTER THAN HIM.
Hehe
BLUSH

MY PARENTS ONLY CARE ABOUT MY OLDER BROTHER.
You've done well.
You're amazing, Kouichirou
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LOSE TO HIM ONE DAY.
I always got first.
MIDDLE SCHOOL, FIRST YEAR'S TEST.
EVERYONE PRAISED HIM JUST BECAUSE HE SCORED BETTER THIS TIME.
I'VE ALWAYS WORKED HARDER THAN OTHERS.
I HATE HIM THE MOST!
THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, I WAS REALLY CHILDISH
So narrow-minded...

I DON'T DISLIKE HIM ACTUALLY.
WE GREW UP LIKE BROTHERS. I KNEW HE'S A VERY GENTLE PERSON
WITH MY PRIDE, IT'S DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
WHY AM I ALWAYS SO BOTHERED BY HIM?
CLENCH
CAN'T I BE MORE NORMAL?
HE'D DEFINITELY AVOID AND LEAVE ME IF THIS GOES ON.

I DON'T WANT THAT...
HE'D START TO IGNORE AND LEAVE ME ALONE
HE'D BE TAKEN AWAY BY OTHERS GRADUALLY
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BECOME LIKE THAT...
THE LESSONS END HERE.
I'M DISTRIBUTING YOUR MOCK EXAMS' RESULTS.
KAGAMI
YES.
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU UNWELL?
It's only a mock exam. Don't feel too bothered
EH?

THE RANK-ING...
OVERALL RANKING: THIRD
THIRD PLACE?
HOW COULD THAT BE?
I ANSWERED AS USUAL.
I DIDN'T SLACK...
YEAH...
WHAT'S WRONG? RESULTS AREN'T GOOD?
WHY WOULD IT BECOME LIKE THAT?

FLINCH
AH.
SO KOU-ICHIROU GOT FIRST?
I DON'T KNOW...
Ate something weird?
FOR REAL!?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
I WANT TO KNOW THE RE/SON TOO!
YEAH.
NN...

EH, SAYING IT SO CASUALLY...
THAT ANNOYS ME!
DAMN!
I'M JUST AN IDIOT GETTING UPTIGHT ABOUT HIM!
HE'S SO NONCHALANT ABOUT IT!

YUU, YOU'RE AMAZING.
I HOPE KOUICHIROU WOULD LOOK AT ME
HE'S THE ONE AND ONLY TO ME
I'M ALWAYS AFRAID HE'LL LOSE INTEREST IN ME
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE
ROLL
AH, "I HOPE HE'D LOOK AT ME" SOUNDS LIKE A GIRL IN LOVE.
I'm not a mind reader.

WHY'D I HARBOUR A GIRL'S FEELING TOWARDS KOUICHI-ROU?
EH, WAIT WHAT WAS I SAYING...
DID I JUST SAY SOMETHING SCARY?
IDIOT!
How could that be?
I'M GOING TO STUDY...
YUU.
NN...
BLUSH
IT'S NOT THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT STUPID THINGS NOW. I MIGHT NOT GET FIRST PLACE AGAIN!

I STUDIED UNTIL MORNING...
SLEEPY...
GOOD MORNING, OSHIZU.
GOOD MORNING, YUU-SAMA. You're so early today
BUT IT LEFT ME NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT OTHER THINGS
Aii san, college?
My lessons start in the afternoon
YUU-SAMA, KOUICHI-ROU-SAMA'S HERE!
IT'S REALLY EMBARRASS-ING TO STUDY THE WHOLE NIGHT
Somehow, I'm really working hard
I HAVE TO STAY CALM!
KOU-ICHIROU.

WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S GO.
GOOD MORN-ING.
YOU...
ALTHOUGH WE CAME TO SCHOOL...
I HAVE TO BUCK UP
I'M GETTING GIDDY.
I CAN'T LET THEM SEE MY CLUMSY STATE BY FAINTING
Let's go

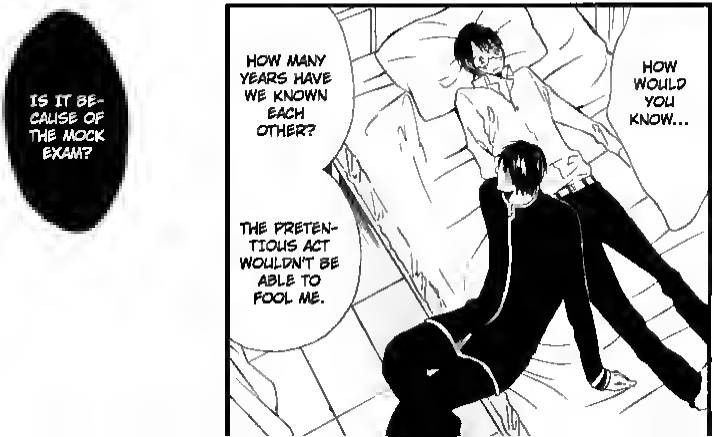
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
SWAY
HAVE TO CHANGE CLASS-ROOM, SO TROUBLESOME...
EH?
GRAB

KOUICHI-ROU?
WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING?
EH? HOW WOULD HE KNOW?
YOU'RE SWAYING.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU COME OUT THIS MORNING.
SHINO, HELP ME TAKE THIS TO THE CLASS-ROOM.
I'LL GO OVER AFTER I BRING HIM TO THE IN-FIRMARY.
HEY!
WAIT...
LET'S GO!
I'M FINE!
WAH!
WHAT? YUU'S UNWELL?
HURLS
Sure, no problem.

INFIRMARY
HURLS
THE TEACHER ISN'T AROUND.
OUT
WAH!
YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
UNDRESSING YOU.
IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE LYING LIKE THAT. YOUR CLOTHES WILL WRINKLE.

EH?
BE QUIET.
I'LL GET THE WRONG IDEA.
WHY IS HE DOING THIS?
I'M GOING TO CLASS...
NN...
WHAT...
KISS

WHY DID HE KISS ME?
BLUSH
HEY, YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT WAS TO SHUT YOU UP.
JUST BE GOOD AND SLEEP. YOU HEAR ME?
YOU WERE WALKING UNSTEADILY. IT'S USELESS TO ATTEND CLASSES.
EH? HE'S ANGRY?


IS IT BECAUSE OF THE MOCK EXAM?
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER?
THE PRETENTIOUS ACT WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FOOL ME.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW...

YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE OUT TO ME. THAT'S WHY YOU STUDIED FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT.
I already know your routine.
HE SAW THROUGH ME...
Although there are other reasons...
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID.
BEING RECKLESS OVER SUCH TRIVIAL ISSUES.
TRIVIAL ISSUES?
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW I FEEL!
I DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP STUDYING SINCE NO ONE WOULD PRAISE ME.
BUT IT'S GOING TO BE BAD IN THAT HOUSE IF I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO STUDY!
YOU, THE ONLY ONE WHO'D PRAISE ME, ALSO ACTED LIKE THAT..

DAPS
DAPS
IF I CONTINUE LIKE THIS, EVEN YOU WOULD STOP SAYING I'M AMAZING.
YUU, YOU .. HOPE THAT I'D PRAISE YOU?
NO... I...
BLUSH
I BLURTED OUT THE TRUTH.
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID.
EH?

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE AMAZING SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG.
Stop crying.
REALLY ...
AREN'T YOU AMAZING?
You had a fever during middle school first year.
YOU GOT THE THIRD PLACE WHEN YOU TOOK THE EXAM WITH FEVER.
EH?
FEVER?
DIDN'T I SAY IT?
YOU GET FEVERS VERY EASILY SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG.
And you're unaware of it.
HE DID SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

EH...
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT YOU CLOSELY, OF COURSE I KNOW EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING ELSE DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
KOUICHIROU HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING AT ME
BASTARD, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME EARLIER...
Taking the exam with a fever, you'd never get good results.
AFTER THAT, HE HELD ME VERY GENTLY
UNTIL I STOPPED CRYING.

WHY ARE YOU STANDING SO FAR AWAY?
WON'T YOU STOP ME?
You won't listen to me anyway
IT'S FINE TO WORK HARD, BUT DON'T DIE BECAUSE OF THAT.
AND OTHER MORE EMBARRASSING THINGS
I cried in front of him
Eh, so cute
The teacher saw us
I fell asleep in his arms
STOP REMINDING ME!
ARE YOU STILL BOTHERED ABOUT THE TEASING PART?
NO.
I LIKE SEEING YOU WORKING HARD.
Hee

WHY DO I LET HIM KEEP LEADING ME ON TODAY...
EARLIER TOO...
THUMP
REALLY ...
SAYING THAT NOW...
That was my first kiss!
AH, THAT REMINDS ME! WHY DID YOU KISS ME?
I CAN'T HELP GETTING EXCITED THINKING ABOUT IT.
IT'LL MAKE ME MISUNDERSTAND.
I WON'T DO THAT TO ANYONE.
EH?
AND IT'S NOT A MISUNDERSTANDING.
DOKI
DOKI
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO KEEP ME QUIET.

IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS.
YOU MEAN...
DON'T YOU RUN AWAY, KOUICHIROU ...
EXPLAIN IT CLEARLY TO ME!
✽近くて遠い 新くんの場合/END✽

YUU HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE SINCE HE WAS YOUNG.

近くて遠い

Kouichirou-kun's Love

EVEN THE ENVIRONMENTS CHANGED AFTER GROWING UP...
HE'S STILL NOT GOOD AT ACTING LIKE A SPOILED KID AND IS ALWAYS ALONE.
.....
WE FOUGHT AND KISSED THE OTHER TIME. SINCE THEN, IT'S STILL THE SAME BETWEEN US.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU STARE AT IT.
I KNOW!
JUST... THE ENGLISH RESULT DROPPED A LITTLE...

!!
PATS
YOU'RE ALREADY FIRST. WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?
DON'T GET TOO BOTHERED AND STUDY OVER-NIGHT!
WHY NOT. .
BECAUSE I'D GET WORRIED.

HURRY UP AND GO HOME!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO BE WORRIED.
BLUSH
SO DISHONEST
YUU TOTALLY FAILED AT ACTING LIKE A SPOILED CHILD.
.....

HE COULDN T ACT LIKE ONE TO ANYONE.
THERE ISN'T ANY EXPECTATION FROM HIM.
YET HE'S TRYING TO EXCEL IN EVERYTHING. IN SUCH A SPECIAL FAMILY...
THOUGH IT BECAME A LITTLE WICKED LATER..
WHEN DID I START TO FEEL THAT...
HE SHOULD TREAT HIMSELF BETTER?
I WANT HIM TO ACT LIKE A SPOILED CHILD TO ME.
MAKING HIM FEEL SAFE.
PROBABLY NOT. UNLESS THE SKY CHANGES COLOUR ...
CALM
WILL HE OPEN UP HIMSELF TO ME GRADUALLY...
TO TELL HIM THAT I'D STAND BY HIM NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

MORN-
ING.
Dark circles.
YUU...
BUT IF POSSIBLE, AT LEAST MAKING HIM FEEL AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU'RE SO SMART. WHY CAN'T YOU LEARN FROM YOUR PAST?
Why did you stay up again?
HEY!
YUU!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I'D GET WORRIED?
REALLY ...

IT'S...
IT'S FINE IF...
YOU WANT TO GET WORRIED...
HE'S REALLY ...
WAH!

OSHIZU-SAN, PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL THAT WE AREN'T WELL AND TAKING A DAY OFF.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY. OUR ATTENDANCE RATE IS ENOUGH
WHY ARE YOU DECIDING ON YOUR OWN!
LET ME GO! I CAN WALK MYSELF!
BE QUIET.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
THEY'RE SO CLOSE.
I'M NOT A PATIENT.
YOUR RESULT WON'T GET WORSE BY RESTING ONE DAY AT HOME
BUT. .

ALL RIGHT, SLEEP!
BLUSH
KOUICHIROU?
DIDN'T YOU PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER? JUST SLEEP!
PATS
PATS
!

PATS
PATS
CLENCH
DON'T PAMPER ME SO MUCH...
I CAN'T DO THAT
BUT HE IMPROVED A LITTLE.
PATS
PATS
YUU.
MAKING HIMSELF PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER AND PURPOSELY MAKING ME WORRIED...
ALTHOUGH HE'S USING THE WRONG WAY, HE'S INDEED ACTING LIKE A SPOILED CHILD.

YUU?
ASLEEP?
IT'S FINE TO DO IT SLOWLY.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
TOTALLY UNGUARDED
KISS
YUU...

SMILE
GOOD NIGHT.

近くて遠い
and far
Natsume-kun's Love

TSUZURA BUJI PARLIAMENT MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
So bored...
AH, ARE YOU TSUZURA SENSEI'S SON?
The second son, right?
THEY MUST BE...
HELLO, SAITOU SENSEI'S WIFE AND THE DAUGHTER OF ICHIHASHI CONSTRUCTION
YOU KNOW US?
OF COURSE I DO

IT'S TROUBLESOME WITH THE RICH LADY. I BETTER WORK ON THE WIFE INSTEAD.
YOUR FATHER IS THE VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
YES. I CAME WITH MY FATHER TODAY.
SMILE
THE EXCHANGE OF GLANCES
CHUCKLE
THAT'S THE CODE.

NATSU-
ME...
NN...
KISS
BE
GENTLE
...

.....
SHINO, THAT'S GROSS. DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT.
EH? WHAT DOES IT MATTER? IT'S REFRESHING SOMETIMES
...
EH, THE PRINCESS OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? THAT GIRL?
IT'S FINE
MY ANIKI'S THERE
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE SON OF THE ORGANISER TO DISAPPEAR.
FLINCH
KISS

BUT SINCE IT'S DOING THE SAME THING, OF COURSE, I'M LOOKING FOR COMFORT.
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
A beauty
YEAH, SHE LOOKED FUN.
TWITCH
HE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO SEDUCE ME...
THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT.
NN.
THERE WOULDN'T BE A CLINGY PROBLEM IF IT'S WITH YOU, NATSU-ME
CHUCKLE
BECAUSE I WON'T ASK YOU TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.
THAT'S RIGHT AND YOU WOULDN'T GET PREG-NANT.
HAA.

You look like a prince
AH!
DON'T SAY THOSE THINGS WHILE MAKING THAT FACE...
THRUST
BUT YOU LIKE ME DOING IT...

In such a deep sleep...
KISS
BEEP

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
SEE YOU IN SCHOOL!
SHIMO
IS THE ALARM EFFECTIVE?
AH...
HE'S GONE AGAIN.

NATSU-
ME..
NATSU-
ME..
HE'S
REALLY
COLD..
WHO'S
COLD?
CALLING
MY NAME SO
PASSION-
ATELY...
So
erotic
...!!

SHINO!
YOU WEREN'T LATE, BUT YOU DIDN'T ATTEND LESSON. I DON'T GET YOU.
IT'S MEAN-INGLESS FOR ME TO SET AN ALARM CLOCK FOR YOU.
WHEN I WOKE UP, SOMEONE WAS ALREADY GONE.
EH? YOU WERE UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF THAT?
I need to go home to change.
YOU SET THE VOLUME SO LOUD.
Che
DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO EAT BREAKFAST ALONE IN A COUPLE'S ROOM?
BUT I WON'T "AH" AND FEED YOU.
CHE, EVEN INSULTS WOULDN'T GET THROUGH ...
Hana
I'LL VOMIT IF YOU DO THAT.

1-2
NEVER MIND. HE WAS ALREADY LIKE THAT WHEN I MET HIM.
I REMEMBER. HE JUST CAME BACK FROM OVERSEAS AND GOT TRANSFERRED INTO THE NEXT CLASS.
HE'S QUITE BOLD, HUH
He could actually out-talk them
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND JAPANESE?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND BECAUSE THE LEVEL IS TOO LOW
YOU
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY COWARDS COME UP TO ME INDIVIDUALLY INSTEAD.
SEEMS INTERESTING.
ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU BRAT!

TAKEKAWA SENSEI ISN'T COMING, RIGHT?
LIKE LOST DOGS...
!!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
I'M FINE IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE FIGHTING, BUT TAKEKAWA SENSEI'S COMING SOON.
TSU-ZURA!
I saw him coming this way
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. THEY'RE SO ANNOYING.
I'm so tired talking to them
HE'S QUITE SMART.
OH, YOU KNEW?
THEY'RE SCARED OF SENSEI THE MOST. THEY'LL LEAVE IF YOU MENTION SENSEI.
I'M MIKANAGI SHINO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOU'RE FUN TOO.
YOU'RE QUITE INTEREST-ING.
I'M TSUZURA NATSUME.

HE HASN'T CHANGED SINCE WE MET.
NO.
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED.
I LEFT IT THERE LAST NIGHT.
REACH
SHINO.

A MARK THAT SHOWS THAT HE BELONGS TO ME.
IT'S TICKLISH.
NATSU-ME?

SHI...
AH, IT'S TSUZURA SENPAI AND MIKANAGI SENPAI!
JUMP

SENPAI, THE BELL'S RANG.
ARE YOU GOING TO SKIP CLASSES?
AH, IS THAT SO?
I didn't realise
WE'RE GOING TO OUR CLASS NOW.
IF SENPAI ARE SKIPPING LESSONS...
WE WANT TO SKIP WITH YOU TOO
YOU GO TO YOUR CLASS TOO.
YES ♡

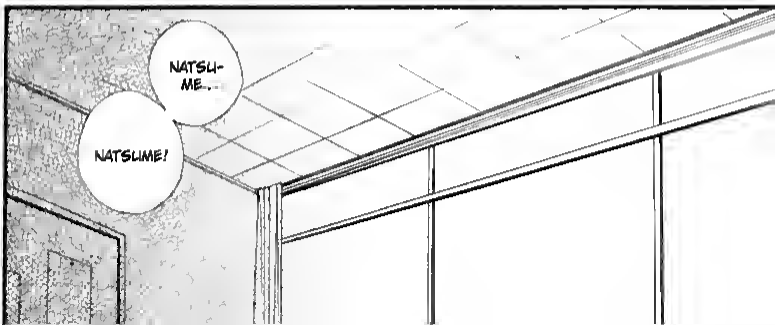
I'M LEAVING.
EH?
AH!!
SHINO! DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!

I'M SO USELESS.
I CAN TALK TO THE GIRLS SO EASILY...
BUT I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HIM.
NATSU-ME...
NATSU-ME...

LET ME ASK YOU, NATSUME
WERE YOU AT A HOTEL AT SHINAGAWA?
EH?
YEAH, WITH A GIRL
DID YOU STAY AT THE HOTEL TOO?
I WAS AT THE RESTAURANT.
With a girl
REALLY?
IT WAS SO TIRING LAST NIGHT THAT GIRL KEPT ASKING FOR IT.
SHE TOTALLY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ME
WHAT A SHOW-OFF. YOU'RE ANNOYING.
I'M AMAZING SO YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU?
Eh?

I JUST SAID IT RANDOMLY
SURE I'M INTER-ESTED.
THAT WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING.
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D REALIZE MY OWN FEEL-INGS WHEN I HELD HIM.

WHAT I REALLY WANT IS TO MONOPOLIZE HIM.



I CAN'T EVEN WAKE YOU UP.
EVERYONE'S GONE
SHINO.
THE CLASSICAL CLASS ENDED. TIME TO CHANGE CLASS-ROOMS
EH?
GRAB
LET'S SKIP IT
FLINCH
AS LONG AS I DO IT...
EVEN IF I CAN'T MONOPO-LIZE HIM...
OUR RELA-TIONSHIP CAN STILL CONTINUE.
IT SHOULD BE EXCITING IF WE DO IT IN THE CLASS-ROOM ONCE IN A WHILE.

SORRY
I WON'T SLEEP WITH YOU AGAIN.
WHY?

THE DAUGHTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER CONFESSED TO ME THIS MORNING.
SHE'S IN FIRST YEAR
A RARE INNOCENT TYPE...
SO I THINK IT'S BETTER NOT TO PLAY TOO MUCH
YOU'RE SAYING ...
YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH THAT GIRL?
DO YOU LIKE HER THAT MUCH?
NO.
We're just dating.
ISN'T IT WEIRD TO DATE HER IF YOU DON'T LIKE HER?
SHINO BELONGS TO OTHERS SO SUDDENLY...
AND HE DOESN'T EVEN LIKE HER

IF I KNEW THINGS WOULD BECOME LIKE THIS, I'D HAVE CONFESSED EARLIER.
AREN'T YOU THE SAME? YOU CAN HAVE FUN EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT.
THE REASON WE SLEEP TOGETHER ISN'T BECAUSE WE LIKE EACH OTHER.
OH YEAH.
CHUCKLE
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HELD HIM BECAUSE I LIKE HIM.
Softly
I'M SO STUPID ...

GRAB
DON'T BE SO COLD.
EH?
NATSU-ME
EVEN IF I CONFESS NOW, IT'LL STILL BE THE SAME WITH THAT GIRL
PUSH
THAT HURTS...
EH?
HEY...
LET'S DO IT.
TAKE IT AS THE LAST TIME
IT'S MEANINGLESS IF THERE IS NO LOVE.

THRUST
NN...
NN...
THRUST
HAA.
NO MORE...
NATSUME ...
SHINO ...

BITE
AH...
NATSU-ME!
NOT SO LOUD. THEY'LL HEAR YOU FROM OUTSIDE.
LOOKING AT THE MARK I LEFT MAKES ME EVEN SADDER\...
COME ON.
EVEN IF I DID THAT, HE WOULDN'T BECOME MINE.
NN...

HE DOESN'T HAVE THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS FOR ME
IT'LL ONLY MAKE ME THINK WE HAVE FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING ME LIKE THAT?
NN!
EVEN UNTIL THE END...
YOU STILL WANTED ME TO HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF YOU?

I'M GOING TO LESSON NOW.
Though it's ending soon...
IT'S REALLY THE END.
DON'T SKIP TOO MANY LESSONS.
I KNOW.
SEE YOU.
IF I'D KNOWN IT'D HURT THIS MUCH...
I WOULD HAVE CONFESSED TO HIM FROM THE START.

WILL I BE HAPPY?
BUT EVEN IF NOTHING WILL CHANGE AFTER THE CONFESSION

NO. IF HE CAN'T BECOME MINE, EVERYTHING WILL BE MEANINGLESS.
IT'S BETTER FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP TO END JUST LIKE THAT.

近くて遠い
near and far
Shino-kun's Love

My hips are really sore!
HE LOOKS SO COMFORTABLE.
In such a deep sleep

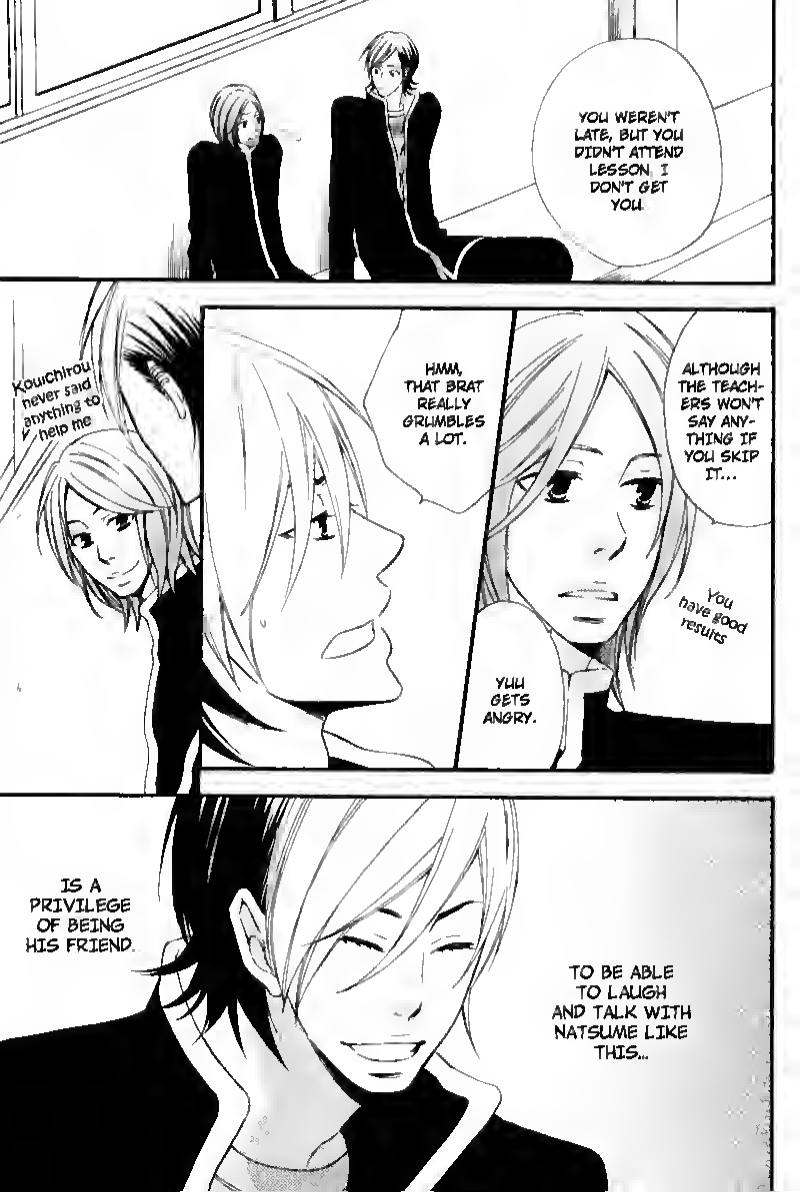
I'VE DECIDED
NEVER TO TELL HIM THAT I LIKE HIM...

AH...
NOT AGAIN...
THAT PLAY-BOY, WHY IS HE LEAVING HICKEYS ON ME?
And here. It's hard to hide it.
STUPID NATSUME.
WHEN HE MAKES SUCH A MARK...
IT'S AS IF I BELONG TO HIM
SHINO.
SUCK
BUT I DON'T.

WE ARE...
LET'S ENJOY OUR-SELVES
SEX FRIENDS.

SHINO, MORN-ING.
YUU, MORN-ING.
What's wrong?
I got sand in my eyes.
I HEARD NATSUME'S FATHER HELD A PARTY YES-TERDAY. HOW WAS IT?
HE LOOKED BORED.
AREN'T ALL POLI-TICIANS' PARTIES THE SAME?
I followed my dad to say hello.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN POLITICS SUCH A PITY. HE'S MORE OUTSTANDING THAN HIS OLDER BROTHER.

HE'S ALWAYS FLIRTING AROUND WITH WOMEN.
HE WAS POPULAR YESTERDAY, TOO.
HE'S ONLY HAVING FUN.
I THINK HE'LL GET KILLED SOONER OR LATER.
Haha
HOW COULD THAT BE?
JUST HAVING FUN...
INDEED
I ASKED HIM INITIALLY BECAUSE OF FUN.
QUITE BAD...
DING DONG
I'M ONLY ONE OF HIS MANY PLAY-MATES.

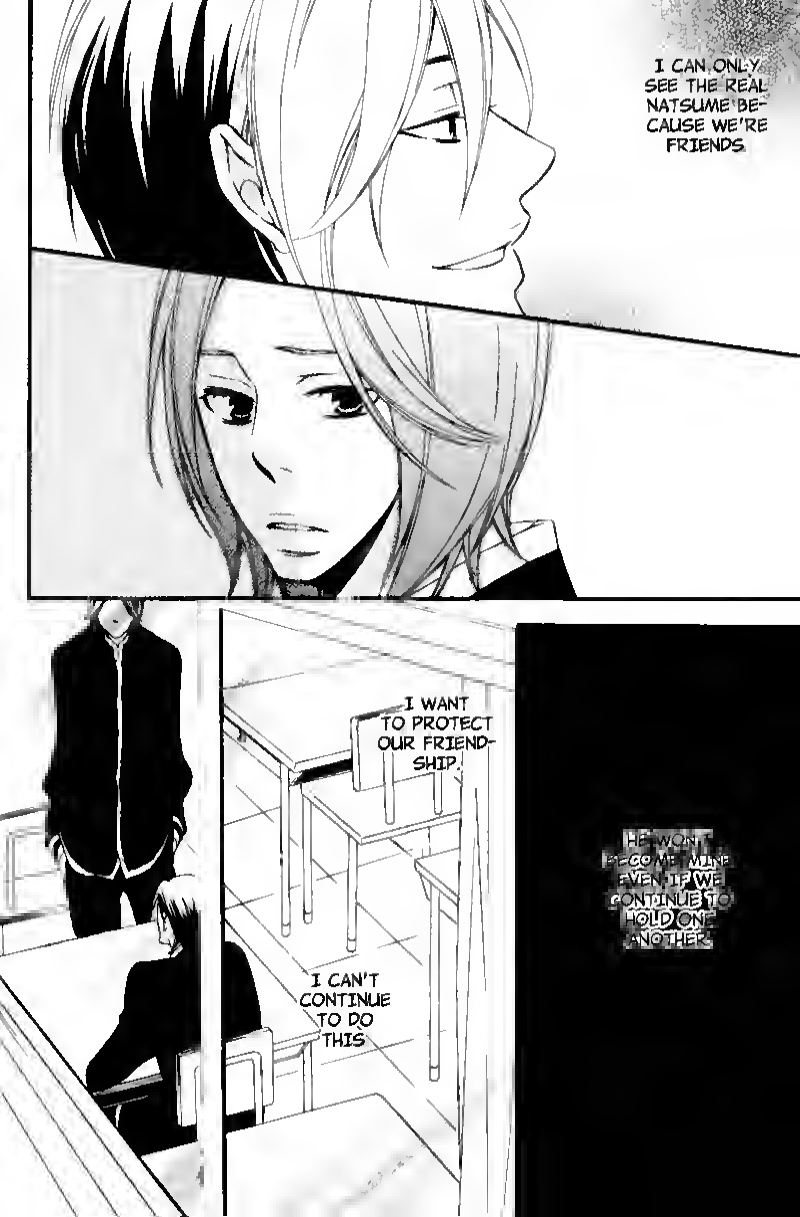

YOU WEREN'T LATE, BUT YOU DIDN'T ATTEND LESSON. I DON'T GET YOU.
ALTHOUGH THE TEACHERS WON'T SAY ANYTHING IF YOU SKIP IT...
You have good results
HMM, THAT BRAT REALLY GRUMBLES A LOT.
YUU GETS ANGRY.
Kouichirou never said anything to help me
TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH AND TALK WITH NATSUME LIKE THIS...
IS A PRIVILEGE OF BEING HIS FRIEND.

ACTING COOL IN FRONT OF WOMEN...
LAUGHING SO HAPPILY IN FRONT OF ME LIKE THIS...
HE MUST NOT REALISE MY FEELINGS AT ALL.
WHAT A STUPID SUPERIORITY..
JUST LIKE AN IDIOT.
SHINO.
NATSUME?
BUT...

I WANT MORE THINGS THAT BELONG ONLY TO ME AND THE NATSUME THAT ONLY I KNOW...
IT'S TICKLISH.
HIS HAND'S HOT.
IT FEELS GOOD.
I WANT HIM TO TOUCH ME MORE.

I KNOW IT VERY WELL...
HE DOES THIS TO MANY OTHERS.
BUT I REALLY WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD TO HIM.
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ANOTHER ANY-MORE. ONLY ME, JUST TOUCH ME.

AH, IT'S TSUZURA SENPAI AND MIKANAGI SENPAI!
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
SENPAI, THE BELL'S RANG.
ARE YOU GOING TO SKIP CLASSES?
AH, IS THAT SO?
DO I REALLY WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD TO HIM?


I CAN ONLY SEE THE REAL NATSUME BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS.
I WANT TO PROTECT OUR FRIENDSHIP.
I CAN'T CONTINUE TO DO THIS
HE WON'T BECOME MINE EVEN IF WE CONTINUE TO HOLD ON ANOTHER

I WON'T SLEEP WITH YOU AGAIN.
I WANT TO GO OUT WITH THAT GIRL FROM THE FIRST YEAR.
I HAVE TO LEAVE HIM BEFORE I DESTROY IT.
EVEN IF I CAN'T TOUCH YOU ANYMORE...

SHINO SENPAI...
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
SAYO-CHAN...
THE TEACHER TALKED TOO LONG.
SEE YOU GUYS.
SEE YOU.
BYE.
.....

SHINO SENPAI?
EH?
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF ME EVEN THOUGH I JUST GOT BACK FROM OVERSEAS.
HE'S A GOOD FATHER.
IT'S A GOOD EXCUSE FOR ME.
IS IT ALL RIGHT? NOT GOING HOME TOGETHER WITH TSUZURA SENPAI...
IT'S FINE WE SEE EACH OTHER EVERYDAY.
I'M SORRY. MY DAD'S TOO PROTECTIVE OF ME.
I LIED TO NATSUME. I DIDN'T GO OUT WITH HER.
HE WAS WORRIED BECAUSE I TRANSFERRED DURING THE MID-TERM.
HE WAS SCARED I COULDN'T MAKE FRIENDS.
I SEE...
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS THE OTHERS THINK WE'RE DATING.

YOU WERE TRANS-FERRED DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL
HOW WERE YOU FEELING AT THAT TIME?
ME?
VERY UNEASY.
BUT...
I'M TSUZURA NATSUME NICE TO MEET YOU.
BECAUSE OF NATSUME...
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED HIM SINCE THEN
SO I CAN'T SAY IT.

I WON'T SAY IT. LET US JUST BE FRIENDS.
SORRY, I CAN'T GO.
AGAIN?

STOP SCOLDING HIM
I WANTED TO REDUCE THE TIME SPENT TOGETHER WITH NATSUME, BUT I PROBABLY OVERDID IT.
SORRY! I CAN DEFINITELY MAKE IT NEXT WEEK!
I want to play darts!
YOU SAID THAT LAST WEEK!
YOU'RE VERY UNSOCIABLE LATELY.
RIGHT?
GIRLFRIENDS COME FIRST.
I'M SORRY.
I CAN DO IT. AS LONG AS WE AREN'T TOGETHER...

I CAN FORGET IT...
HAH?
THIS WEEK, TOO?
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I GOT IT. TELL ME WHEN YOU CAN MAKE IT.
You have to tell me
Bye
HE'S BEEN QUITE LONELY SINCE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PLAYING WITH HIM LATELY.
YUU? HOW COULD THAT BE?
NOT ONLY YUU, KOUICHIROU AND I FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO.
BUT IT'S MEANINGLESS IF I IGNORE FRIENDS, TOO...
SORRY...
AH, SHINO SENPAI.
IT'S FINE. YOU HAVE TO ACCOMPANY HER. SHE'S HERE.

EH?
SEE YOU, NATSU-ME.
I'M SORRY, SENPAI YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK ME HOME
I'M GOING BACK WITH MY CLASS-MATE TODAY.
THE SHOP YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER TIME, HE SAID HE WANTED TO GO.
AH...
NOT GOOD.
IT'S OVER.
NATSUME'S HERE.
I LIKE HIM, SO I'M SORRY. THANK YOU.
HE'LL FIND OUT!
SHINO?

AREN'T YOU...GOING OUT WITH HER?
WELL...
IT'S REALLY THE WORST
SAYO-CHAN, DON'T LET YOUR FRIEND WAIT TOO LONG. GET GOING.
"TAKING CARE"?
SAYO-CHAN
NO. SENPAI'S TAKING CARE OF ME BECAUSE MY DAD ASKED HIM TO
He's very nice.
YES.
He also introduced me to some shops to hang out at with my friends.
YES. BECAUSE I JUST RETURNED FROM OVER-SEAS AND GOT TRANS-FERRED HERE.
HE KNOWS EVERY-THING NOW.

WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?
I'M ASKING YOU THE REASON.
BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.
I'M SORRY.
I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT.
BECAUSE I LIKE YOU...
I LIKE YOU SO MUCH...
THAT I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE
GRAB
HEY, SHINO!
SO...

I CAN'T SAY IT.
SHINO ...

CHE!
HEY!!
SHINO!

WHAT...
WHY DID YOU COME AFTER ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE CRYING.
SHINO, WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?
NO ..
EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT WITH ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT ..

I LIKE YOU VERY MUCH... IT'S PAINFUL...
EH? WHAT?
WAIT... YOU SAID YOU LIKE ME...
I LIKE YOU. I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU!
YOU WOULDN'T BECOME MINE!
BUT YOU LIKE TO FOOL AROUND!

I WANTED TO CONFESS EVERY TIME WE DID IT, BUT I COULDN'T.
SO I HOPED TO END OUR RELATIONSHIP BY LYING TO YOU.
BUT I SAID-IT NOW.
EVERYTHING'S OVER.
WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS ANYMORE

YEAH. WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS ANYMORE.
BE MY LOVER INSTEAD.

I LIKE YOU, TOO
NO WAY..
WE ACTUALLY HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONLY FOOLING AROUND WITH ME, TOO.
THEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO OUT WITH THAT GIRL, SO I GAVE UP

NATSUME'S THE SAME AS ME, WORRYING ABOUT IT.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED SO MUCH AND CONFESSED EARLIER.
ME, TOO...
I SHOULD HAVE CONFESSED EARLIER.

WE'RE REALLY STUPID.
YEAH.

LET'S HAVE DINNER LATER.
ONLY DINNER?
HOW COULD THAT BE? OF COURSE, AS WELL AS TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST.
THEN YOU HAVE TO "AH" AND FEED ME.
"AH"...

ささめごと
Light Whispers

PLEASE WAIT FOR WHILE, SENSEI.
I'M YASHICHI.
A POOR UKIYOE ARTIST STAYING IN THE ROW HOUSES.
SIGH
I WANT TO GO BACK.
WHERE IS HE?
RUNS
RUNS
RUNS
HURRY UP AND FIND HIM!
THE REASON THAT...
I'M HERE AT THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT...
WHAT'S THE COMMO-TION?

SWISH
IS TO SEE THE TOP PROSTITUTE IN THE NEIGH-BOURHOOD, YUUGIRI, OF THE MIURA HOUSE.

YASHICHI-SAN
I DON'T WANT TO SIT LIKE THIS ANYMORE
YOU'RE NOT DONE YET?
YOU'VE ONLY BEEN SITTING FOR A WHILE, YUUGIRI.
Please don't move
I CAN'T HELP IT.
YOU KEEP STARING AT THE PAPER AND DON'T TALK TO ME.
You won't drink nor sing
EVEN IF THE LADY BOSS OF AZUMA HOUSE REQUESTED YOU TO DO A PORTRAIT OF ME...
MY SHOULDERS REALLY ACHE EVERY TIME YOU DO THIS.

You have to draw a manly portrait of him.
I REALLY WANT TO BRING THE CUTE YUU-GIRI WITH ME EVERYWHERE I GO ♡
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT HERE TO FOOL AROUND.
THIS LADY BOSS WHO USED TO TAKE CARE OF ME IN THE PAST REQUESTED ME.
YES...
THAT'S A PROB-LEM..
THE BOSS LOOKED LIKE A YOUNG GIRL LIKE THAT
He's not listening...
Hee?
YASHICHI-KUN.
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO ME, YET SMIL-ING TO YOUR-SELF. THAT'S MEAN.
AND I MET YUUGIRI

I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU
SORRY
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE FIRST TIME I CAME HERE
THAT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO
REALLY?
I WAS REQUESTED BY THE LADY BOSS AND I WASN'T ABLE TO MEET YOU.
YOU RAN AWAY AFTER HEARING IT.
CHUCKLE
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME
MEN WHO COME HERE ARE EITHER PERVERTS OR ANNOYING BASTARDS!
How would I have known you were here to draw my portrait?
HAHA!
YOU REFUSED TO SEE ME, YET YOU ESCAPED INTO THE ROOM WHERE I WAS WAITING.
MEANIE!
STOP TALKING ABOUT THAT!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THE LADY BOSS
HE HAS A CUTENESS THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM GIRLS'
SMILE

INDEED, I ALWAYS RUN AWAY WHEN I HEAR A MAN HAS ASKED FOR ME.
BUT...
EH!?
I DON'T DISLIKE IT IF YOU'RE THE ONE.
DO YOU WANT TO STAY HERE AND LISTEN TO THE MORNING BELL WITH ME SOMEDAY?
BLUSH
EH!?
WELL ...
NO...

PFF!
YOU'RE REALLY ADOR-ABLE.
YUU-GIRI?
BLUSH
HAHA!
CHUCKLE
YOU TEASED ME EARLIER, SO I WAS GETTING A LITTLE REVENGE
URGH...
HE MADE FUN OF ME...
OH WELL. LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
YEAH.

CLANK
SWISH
HMM...
I DON'T QUITE LIKE IT...

I HAVE TO FINISH IT SOON.
BUT I CAN'T GET IT RIGHT...
EVEN IF LADY BOSS PAYS FOR THE EXPENSES...
EH, IT'S BECAUSE SHE PAYS FOR IT...
IT HAS BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YUU-GIRI.
One, two, three...

HE'S MAGNANIMOUS, KNOWS HOW TO TALK AND IS VERY THOUGHTFUL.
THE MORE I GET TO KNOW HIM, THE MORE I FEEL HE'S A NICE GUY.
HIS BED SKILLS MUST BE AMAZING TOO FOR HIS POPULARITY.
WHAT IS IT THAT'S LACKING IN THE PAINTING?
EVEN THE LADY BOSS'S SO SMITTEN WITH HIM...
ANNOYED

"AN-
NOYED"?
WHY
AM I
ANNOYED
I DON'T
GET IT
ANYMORE!
WHAT
IS IT...
PLEASE
COME THIS
WAY!
I CAME
AGAIN.

EVEN IF I COME TO LOOK FOR HIM, IT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN DO A GOOD JOB.
IT'S SO COLD TODAY ....
IT MIGHT SNOW...

SHUT'S
THOSE WILES OF HIS.
OF COURSE, I KNOW IT'S BUSINESS.
HE ALWAYS USES THEM TO SUBDUE BOTH GENDERS.
YASHI-CHI-SAN!
NOTH-ING...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YASHI-CHI-SAN?
YOU'RE HERE

YASHICHI-SAN, HOW DO YOU WANT ME TODAY?
EH?
ARE YOU STARTING TO DRAW NOW?
.....
.....
WHY AM I GETTING ANNOYED...
SO ANNOYING ...
YOU'LL DEFINITELY DRAW A VERY MANLY PORTRAIT OF ME.
I'm so excited
I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN FINISH SOON
SO I CAN SHOW IT OFF TO OTHERS
HE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE MY FEELINGS AND JUST KEEPS TALKING ON HIS OWN
YEAH, THE PAINTING.
BUT I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD TO HOLD MY BRUSH...

BE QUIET.
BESIDES FOOLING AROUND EVERY DAY, WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ..
WHAT DID I SAY...
I'M JUST VENTING MY FRUSTRA-TION...
ACK!

PLEASE PARDON MY RUDENESS.
BOWS
YASHI-CHI-SAN
BUT I'M TOTALLY IGNORANT AND EVEN TALKED AS IF I KNOW IT VERY WELL.
SO I RAMBLED ABOUT PAINT-INGS THAT YOU LIKE..
I THOUGHT YOU WERE UNHAPPY..
IT'S ME I SAID SOMETHING RUDE.
I'M SORRY.
NO, YUUGIRI.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

YOU HAVE BEEN WORK-ING REALLY HARD, BUT I...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGISE.
I'M INDEED FOOLING AROUND.
YOU'RE REALLY GENTLE.
SMILE
DOKI DOKI

MY LIFE INDEED ISN'T ALWAYS HAPPY
MY HOME-TOWN IS IN THE NORTH. IT'S A VILLAGE PLAGUED WITH HEAVY SNOW.
THE WINTER STRETCHES VERY LONG AND IT'S HARD TO GROW ANY CROP
WE ARE A BIG FAMILY AND MY PARENTS SOLD ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
I'M NOT AS MAGNANIMOUS LIKE YOU SAID.
I SERVED DOCTORS, SHOP BOSSES ..
I WAS ILL TREATED ALSO.
IT WAS REALLY HARD.
GOT HIT IF I VOICED OUT ANY-THING ..

I'M QUITE GOOD WITH WORDS NOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BOTHERED
STOP IT, YUUGIRI.
I WON'T GET ILL TREATED ANYMORE.
STOP THINKING ABOUT THOSE BAD MEMORIES. I SAID TOO MUCH.
IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT I FOOL AROUND A LOT.
YUUGIRI...
BUT I REALLY HOPE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE AN AMAZING PERSON.
I'VE NEVER TOLD SUCH THINGS TO CLIENTS BEFORE.

DO YOU KNOW THE REASON?
I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY
SHAKES
SHAKES
DO YOU DISLIKE ME DOING THAT?

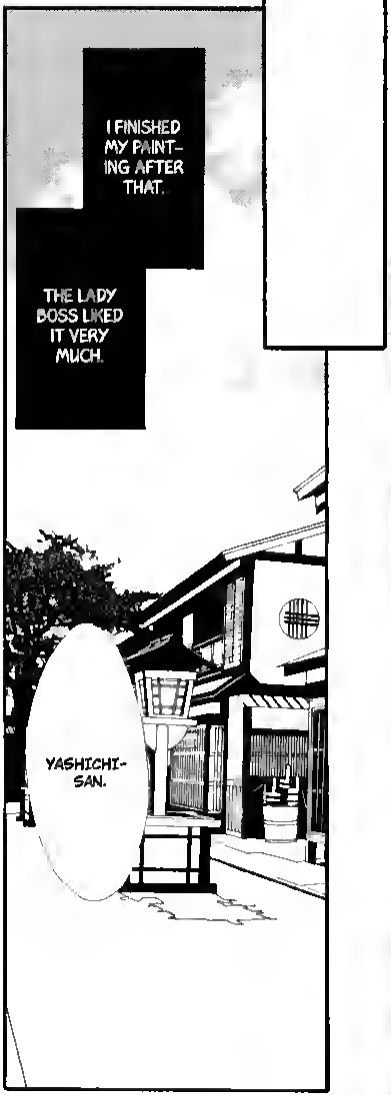
MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME BECAUSE OF MY JOB...
BUT I REALLY...
REALLY WANT TO BARE MY HEART TO YOU.
FOR YOU TO ENTRUST ME WITH YOUR HEART AND FEELINGS...
I ALSO WANT TO BARE MY HEART TO YOU
I BELIEVE YOU, YUU-GIRI
YASHICHI-SAN...

NN.
HAA
I'M SO HAPPY
NN.
EH?
WAIT...
WHY AM I IN THE WOMAN'S ROLE.!!
TOUCH
NN!?

DON'T YOU WANT ME TO HOLD YOU?
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH SEX AT ALL...
SO I THINK IT'S BETTER IF I TAKE THE LEAD.
I'M FINE BEING IN EITHER POSITION
SMILE
WHEN HE SAID THAT, I FELT STUPID FOR WORRYING ABOUT WHAT POSITION I'M IN.
AS LONG AS WE CAN BE CONNECTED
YUU-GIRI...
WHAT DOES HE WANT TO DO...
I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE LEAD.

AH!
AH!
STROKE
STROKE
LICK
AH!
AH!
THIS PART AGREES TOO.
PRESS
YASHICHI-SAN, DO YOU KNOW I NEED TO USE HERE?
EH
STOP...
RUB
AH!
I'LL ENTER YOU LATER
WAH!
SLIPS
WE'LL HAVE TO PREPARE FIRST..
WAH..
PRESS
HAA.
AH

AH!
MY HEART'S BEEN FILLED UP GRADUALLY...
YUU-GIRI...
AH...
AH!
I KNOW IT NOW.
I WAS JEALOUS WHEN I GOT ANNOYED AT THE CLIENTS.
MY PAINTING WAS LACKING SOMETHING BECAUSE I DIDN'T REALIZE MY OWN FEELINGS.
YASHI-CHI-SAN, GOOD?


I FINISHED MY PAINTING AFTER THAT.
THE LADY BOSS LIKED IT VERY MUCH.
YASHICHI-SAN.
BUT I CAN SEE MY HEART NOW.

MN...
I WANTED TO PAINT HIM AGAIN SO I CAME TO LOOK FOR HIM.
THE MORNING BELL'S GOING TO STRIKE AGAIN.
I'VE A WAY TO HANDLE MORNING LAZINESS.
JUMP
GRAB
WAH!
YUU-GIRI
...
YOU'RE REALLY ENERGETIC IN THE MORNING.
HAHAA!
YOU CAN'T COME HERE ANYMORE FOR THE TIME BEING...
YUU-GIRI...
WE CAN ONLY MEET HERE.

I REALLY WANT TO HOLD YOU LIKE THAT. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU.
I REALLY WISH WE COULD RUN AWAY FROM HERE.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU EITHER.
YUU-GIRI ...

EH?
SENSEI, GOOD MORNING
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T LET YOU GO IN.
EH?
BUT I HEARD YOU WANTED TO TAKE YUU-GIRI AWAY.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S WRONG.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY WOULD IT BECOME LIKE THAT?
THAT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
IS IT THAT TIME...
I REALLY WISH WE COULD RUN AWAY FROM HERE
IT'S AN ORDER FROM THE OWNER. YOU ARE NOT TO COME HERE AGAIN.
IT'S NO USE WHATEVER YOU SAY! NO MEANS NO!!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SORRY. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I CAME TO VISIT YOU, LADY BOSS
IT'S BEEN REALLY A WHILE SINCE I SAW YOU, YASHICHI.
I'M SORRY.
NEVER MIND.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YUU-GIRI SINCE THAT DAY.
I HAVE SOME-THING I NEED YOUR HELP WITH.

I HEARD FROM MIURA HOUSE
YOU WANTED TO RUN AWAY WITH HIM.
THAT'S REALLY A MISUNDER-STANDING!
!!
YOU WANTED ME TO HELP YOU TO MEET YUUGIRI?
AH...
IT'D BE A GREAT LOSS IF HE ES-CAPED.
YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR BEING CAUTIOUS.
I THOUGHT SO. YOU AREN'T A RECKLESS BOY THAT WOULD DO THINGS TO JEOPARDIZE YOUR LIFE.
YOU KNEW THAT YUUGIRI'S A TOP ONE
IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEVER TIES ONCE YOU FALL IN LOVE. I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT IT'S MY CUTE YUUGIRI THAT YOU LIKE. IT MAKES ME A LITTLE SAD.
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE...
I REALLY CAN'T SEE HIM ANY-MORE.
BUT I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIM ONCE...

COME
LET'S GO AND SEE YUUGIRI!
BOSS?
YUUGIRI!!
YASHI-CHI-SAN!

THE OWNER TOLD ME THAT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I ASKED THE LADY BOSS TO HELP ME GET THE OWNER TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION
I MISS YOU...
ME, TOO!
ONLY TONIGHT ...
"LISTEN, YASHICHI I WILL ONLY LET YOU SEE HIM ONCE."

YUUGIRI, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TONIGHT...
I DON'T WANT IT!
SO IT'S REALLY..
I REALLY HATE MY STATUS..
I FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU DO. BUT WE ..
IT'S MORE LIKE TELLING ME TO DIE.
IF I CAN'T BE TOGETHER WITH THE ONE I LOVE ..
YASHICHI-SAN, I CAN REPAY MY LOAN IN A FEW MORE YEARS.
WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I'LL COME TO LOOK FOR YOU.

WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME UNTIL THAT DAY COMES?
I'LL WAIT!!
YASHI-CHI-SAN...

AH!
AH!
AH!
YUUGIRI...
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE...
WHAT DID YOU SAY..
I HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS
THRUST
AH!

WAH!
THRUST
AH!
AH!
IS IT GOOD?
YASHI-CHI-SAN..
NN.
YUUGIRI..
HARDER... LET ME REMEMBER IT..
YASHICHI-SAN.
YOU HAVE TO THINK OF ME EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER

BE IT DAY OR NIGHT, YOU HAVE TO THINK OF ME...
IT'S SNOW-ING
THE SNOW'S ACCUMULAT-ING..
PULL

IT'S OUR OATH
YUU-GIRI
LET'S EXCHANGE OUR HAIR BANDS.
WE'LL EXCHANGE IT BACK THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.
TAKE THIS WITH YOU, AND THINK OF IT AS ME.
I'LL THINK OF YOU UNTIL THAT DAY COMES.
LATER.
ALL RIGHT.

A LITTLE SLANTED...
THREE YEARS LATER.
I'M NOW ONE OF THE TOP UKIYOE ARTIST IN EDO...
WITH FAME AND WEALTH.
SIGH
I WONDER IF HE'S DOING WELL.
I'm still staying in the row house though.
BUT ALL THESE AREN'T WHAT I DESIRE MOST.
IT'S NOT REALLY TORTUROUS TO WAIT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN HIM.
SLIDE
I'M GOING TO THROW THIS BAND AWAY IF YOU DON'T COME SOON.
BUT I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIM SOONER.

I'LL BE BOTHERED THEN
DID I MAKE IT IN TIME?

CLATTER
YUUGIRI!!
IT'S NOT ILLUSION THAT I'M SEEING NOW...
IS IT REALLY YOU?
YUU-GIRI ...
YUUGIRI ..
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT FOR SO LONG.
DID YOU FORGET ME AFTER SO LONG?

LET ME FEEL MORE OF YOU...
I'LL LET YOU REMEMBER ME SLOWLY.
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT AFTER THREE YEARS
IS THAT SO?

MOST LIKELY IT'S THAT MY CLOTHES ARE SIMPLE.
YEAH.
Very normal!
I CHANGED MY WAY OF TALKING TO SOUND LIKE A COMMONER.
CHANGED MY NAME, TOO.
YOUR NAME?
SMILE
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
YEAH.
WE HAVE A LOT OF TIME FROM NOW ON TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
BUT...
MY NAME IS...
I HAVE TO KNOW MY LOVER'S NAME FIRST.
✤ささめごと /END✤

AFTERWORD

- NEAR AND FAR ~ YUU-KUN AND KOUICHIROU

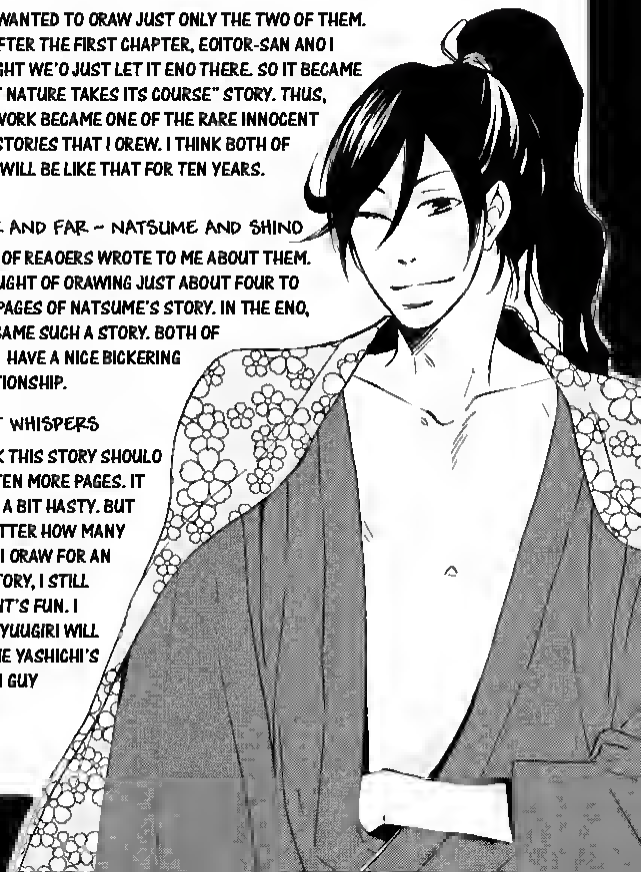
I HAD WANTED TO DRAW JUST ONLY THE TWO OF THEM. BUT AFTER THE FIRST CHAPTER, EDITOR-SAN AND I THOUGHT WE'D JUST LET IT END THERE. SO IT BECAME A "LET NATURE TAKES ITS COURSE" STORY. THUS, THIS WORK BECAME ONE OF THE RARE INNOCENT LOVE STORIES THAT I DREW. I THINK BOTH OF THEM WILL BE LIKE THAT FOR TEN YEARS.

- NEAR AND FAR ~ NATSUME AND SHINO

A LOT OF READERS WROTE TO ME ABOUT THEM. I THOUGHT OF DRAWING JUST ABOUT FOUR TO NINE PAGES OF NATSUME'S STORY. IN THE END, IT BECAME SUCH A STORY. BOTH OF THEM HAVE A NICE BICKERING RELATIONSHIP.

- LIGHT WHISPERS

I THINK THIS STORY SHOULD HAVE TEN MORE PAGES. IT ENDED A BIT HASTY. BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DRAW FOR AN END STORY, I STILL THINK IT'S FUN. I THINK YUUGIRI WILL BECOME YASHICHI'S LIVE-IN GUY LATER.



はじめまして、こんにちは。
椿崎ねねこです。

この度はこの本を手にとって下さり

ぺこり

ありがとうございます！！

すべてのご縁とつめこみ

本当にこんなにポポポンと単行本を出していただいて、ありがたい事です。

ここまでもみなさまにお世話をくださる担当さんと読んでくださったあなたのおかげです。

今回はミステリアス・という程でもない淡々としたオムニバスです。

正直言って
こういう話の作りかたは
ちょう苦手なのです。

私は起承転結のはっきりした話を作るのが好きなので今回のようにあまり起伏のないものはどうなんだろうとだいぶ迷走しました。

それを担当さんに

と、ずっと言われてたんですが私にポエムまんがを描かせるほうが間違ってると、ここにえ

最後になりましたが読んで下さったみなさまが少しでも楽しんでいただけてたら嬉しいです。

近くて遠い　裕くんの場合
（GUSH2008年11月号掲載）
近くて遠い　公一郎くんの場合
（描き下ろし）
近くて遠い　東くんの場合
（GUSH2009年1月号掲載）
近くて遠い　志乃くんの場合
（GUSH2009年2月号掲載）
ささめごと
（GUSH2008年2月号掲載）
あとがき
（描き下ろし）

近くて遠い

2009年6月20日初版第一刷発行

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東京都千代田区一番町29-6
TEL.03(3222)5119(編集部)
TEL.03(3222)3744(出版営業部)
www.kaiohsha.com
印　刷■図書印刷株式会社
ISBN978-4-87724-127-8

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〒102-8405東京都千代田区一番町29-6
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近くて遠い

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KAIOHSHA

9784877241278

ISBN978-4-87724-127-8

C9979 ¥600E

1929979006006

雑誌 50953-71

株式会社 海王社

定価 本体600円+税

お前が好き。
でもそれを伝えたらこの関係は壊れてしまう。

意地を張って
素直になれない幼なじみの二人。
五割を張って
本気を見せないセフレの二人。
いつまでも側にいたい。だから言わない。
たけど、俺だけを見てほしい。もっと触って欲しい。
誰よりも近くにいるのに、誰よりも遠い。
近くにいすぎて想いを伝えられないでいる。

2カップルの恋物語。

NEAR AND FAR